New channel of DD

385. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan is going to launch a new channel that would cater exclusively to the Asian community in England;

(b) whether all the formalities in this regard have since been completed; and

(c) by when it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati had proposed to broadcast DD News Channel to the U.K. audience through a DTH (B sky B) platform. Doordarshan has been asked to work out financial details including financial sustainability.

Telecast of programmes for adults

†386. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai High Court has recently directed Government to take necessary action to ensure that satellite T.V. channels telecast only such programmes for adults that have got approval of the Censor Board; and

(b) if so, the necessary steps taken by Government to implement the directions indicating the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Directions were given by the Mumbai High Court to seven TV channels, who are respondents in Writ Petition No.1232/2004— Ms. Pratibha Naithani *Vs.* Union of India and Others, and other TV channels, on 1st September, 2004, restraining them from telecasting any adult TV programmes and films without appropriate certificate from CBFC.

(b) (i) Television channels transmitted or retransmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to the provisions of Rule 6(1)(o) of the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 read with Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, which provides that no programme should be carried in the Cable Service which is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) As Legislative exercise is currently underway to provide for a quasi judicial mechanism to regulate content on TV channels including that of adult TV programme.

Telecast of Olympic event

†387. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the legitimate right to telecast Olympic events was exclusively given to Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some private news channels have exceeded the time limit of agreement for the telecast of Olympic events;

(c) if so, whether Government would recover the amount for the excess time from these private news channels; and

(d) if so, to what extent and by when?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that private channels have used Olympic footage extensively.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that action to effect recoveries, wherever due, has been initiated by them.

DTH service

388. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has finalized the rules and regulations for Doodarshan's DTH service;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the objectives thereof; and

(c) by when Doordarshan is likely to start satellite transmission in Ku Band to enable the viewers to receive 30 TV channels free to air, with the help of dish antenna and a Set Top Box?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Ku-band transmission project of Doordarshan was approved by the Government in November, 2003 at an estimated cost of Rs. 164.35 crores. The primary objective of Doordarshan's

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.